

Appendix 3 – Newspaper Article



**WATERSHED
ASSISTANCE
THROUGH
EDUCATION &
RESOURCES**

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H HERON LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

Press Release

Jan Voit, District Administrator
Heron Lake Watershed District
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Heron Lake Sediment Reduction Demonstration Project Update

In 2009, the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) was awarded a grant through the Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 program. Through this grant, the HLWD sought to increase landowner awareness of two unique and innovative streambank stabilization structures, cedar revetments and J-hook weirs.

Two demonstration projects were installed in the summer of 2010. The J-hook weir is located in Section 4 of Alba Township in Jackson County. The cedar revetment is located in Section 3 of Seward Township in Nobles County. It appears that both structures have been highly successful in reducing streambank erosion.



Cedar Revetment Site Before



J-Hook Weir Site Before

The HLWD hosted a project tour on June 14, 2011. A newsletter promoting the tour was developed and distributed to watershed residents, agency personnel, and legislators. A news release about the event was sent to local news media. Participants met at the Heron Lake Community Center and traveled to both the J-hook weir and cedar revetment sites. Ross Behrends explained the project installation process at each site. Twenty-two people attended the tour.



Stream changes will be documented over the three-year grant period through photos and video footage. Readings are also taken to record water clarity at both sites.

A tour will be held in late spring of 2013 as a means to share project results. Follow project progress on the HLWD website at www.hlwdonline.org.

For further information about this project, contact Jan Voit at hlwd@roundlk.net or Ross Behrends at ross.behrends@noblesswcd.org.



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To implement a cedar revetment, whole trees are cut and anchored horizontally at the base of a streambank. The trees slow the current, decreasing erosion and allowing silt and sand to be deposited along the bank and within the tree branches. The deposited material forms a good seed bed in which trees can sprout and grow. The resulting trees spread roots throughout the revetment and streambank. The bank should be stabilized through the roots of the living trees by the time the revetment decays. The cedar revetments also provide excellent fish and wildlife cover.

The J-hook weir is an upstream directed, gently sloping structure composed of natural materials such as boulders, logs, and root wads. It is installed on the outside of a stream bend. Water velocity is decreased in the near-bank region and increased in the center of the channel. The hook portion produces a long, deep, wide pool that has an added benefit of holding cover for fish.

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The HLWD will be hosting a project tour on July 21, 2014. Participants will meet at the Heron Lake Community Center at 9:30 a.m. The bus will depart at 10:00 a.m. to visit both the J-hook weir and cedar revetment sites.

Stream changes were documented over the three-year grant period through photos and video footage. Transparency tube readings were taken at the site. This information can be found on the HLWD website at www.hlwdonline.org.

Further information about this project can be found by contacting Catherine Sereg at catherine.sereg@noblesswcd.org or Jan Voit at jan.voit@mysmbs.com.